

USS ALBACORE (AGSS 569)

NEWSLETTER # 53

July 2014

Dear Shipmate,

Our reunion committee has settled on September 24 thru 27 of 2015 as the dates for our next gathering. By now, you should have received a questionnaire from the committee asking for some information about you and your interest in some possible reunion events. If you have not received a survey or if you have misplaced it, please contact Jim Kraut at 13244 Fieldstone Way, Gainesville, VA 20155-6611 or via email at "krautsare@comcast.net". Of the more than 220 shipmates we know of, only 45 have responded to the survey. The committee needs to know whether or not you are interested in attending. Saying "yes" does **not** commit you attending. The committee does need to get a better feel for how many "might" be coming in order to aid in their planning for activities and dinner venues. So please send in a survey response.

A second "portable" storage shed has been erected on the property behind the main museum building. The large snow blower has been relocated to this shed freeing up space in the built-in shed for grounds keeping equipment. Because of a lack of space and easy accessibility, some of this equipment was previously stored in the old 'new' shed holding museum sales items. COB Bower now has his and Glenda's Park gardening gear stowed all in one place.

Executive Director John Maier said Albacore Park will honor the USS Squalus and VADM. Momsen on Sept. 20 when it hosts Submarine History Day. Rising to the rank of Admiral, Momsen is credited as being the advocate and innovator of the modern submarine, best represented by Albacore, the centerpiece of the museum. Adm. Momsen's grand - daughter is planning to attend the event and will bring some family mementos to display. USSVI representatives from Marblehead and Thresher bases also will be present during the day and a " Tolling of The Boats" ceremony will be performed. John is working on getting a vendor to come to the Park and sell pre-made sub sandwiches and beverages.

John also related that Albacore Park is in negotiations with the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard to have a copy of a Momsen diving bell (the McCann Submarine Rescue Chamber) similar to the one used in the Squalus rescue, on permanent display at the Park.

Squalus is a fascinating story because of the rescue and salvage. Squalus was raised Sept. 13, 1939, and towed to the shipyard, where it was repaired and refitted. Squalus was decommissioned Nov. 15, 1939, renamed Sailfish on Feb. 9, 1940, and recommissioned May 15 of that year. Sailfish left Portsmouth in 1941 to patrol the Pacific and served during World War II. It was decommissioned Oct. 27, 1945 and its conning tower now stands as a memorial at the Shipyard.

Years of negotiations between the State of New Hampshire (Department of Transportation), the Federal Highway Administration and an alphabet soup of other government agencies and PSMA have concluded. The State wanted the land forward of Albacore's bow for a Route 1 By-Pass/Market Street connector road and for the approach to the replacement Sarah Mildred Long bridge. Both parties have signed an agreement of sale. A possible date for actual closing on the sale is 1 August. Under the agreement, the

State gets the land and PSMA gets a check for \$1.5 million. In addition, the State will be responsible for making improvements to and along the connector road - among which are: drainage upgrades, permanent traffic signals, lane markings, sidewalks and crosswalks on Market Street. Throughout this whole process, PSMA Board member Ken Herrick has been most persistent in protecting the Park's interests and has kept the State and Federal agencies honest. Bravo Zulu Ken.

Dennis Hays has moved to 495 Burnswick Isle Way, Frisco, TX 75034. His phone remains (608) 346-4374. Ashley Fletcher has a new email of "awfletcher59@gmail.com". Bob Hurley has moved to 1550 Mush Bluff Road, St. Marys, GA 31558. Fred Saunders has relocated to 449 E. Tangerine Sq. SW, Vero Beach, FL 32968. His new email is "agss569@gmail.com". Phones are (772) 492-9877 (home) and (772) 925-9938 (cell). Jack Hunter also has moved. Please note the new address below.

I regret to report that shipmate Tom Poole departed on Eternal Patrol on 25 May. Tom was Commanding Officer of Albacore from 1969 to 1971. Shipmate Robert Noble also departed on Eternal patrol on July 4th. Bob was an RM1 while on Albacore. The family has been sent an Albacore Condolence card.

I had a very enjoyable and interesting conversation with shipmate Floyd Sharp calling from Port St. John in Florida. Floyd was leading seaman and a QM striker while on Albacore from 61'-64'.

The fall Day of Caring sponsored by the Greater Seacoast United Way will be on Thursday, September 11th running from 0900 to 1500. Volunteers from a local business will be at the Park to whittle away at John Maier's ever-present 'wish list' of projects around the Park. Any extra helping hands would be greatly appreciated and we will feed you lunch.

Our next Friends meeting is scheduled for 1100 on Saturday, 23 September in the Visitor's Center building during the Submarine History Day celebration. If you plan to be at the Park that day, please stop in and join us.

If you are receiving this newsletter via Uncle Sam's postal service, it is because we do not have an e-mail address for you. In addition to the 172 copies sent out electronically, there are 52 more that go out as a hard copy. We would prefer to be totally GREEN and deliver the newsletters electronically to save on paper and stamps. So, if you have recently gotten on-line, or had a change of address, telephone number, e-mail provider or if you just have something you would like to submit for posting on the website, please pass that information along to Jack Hunter by email, snail mail or telephone.

Until next time, shipmate.

Jack Hunter
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